

August 2002

Background:

Along with Interstate 5, State Route 99 through the San Joaquin Valley is the backbone of north-south transportation in California. Route 99 in particular is the primary facility for the movement of people, goods, and services through the San Joaquin Valley. Much of Route 99 in the Valley was built 40 to 50 years ago and is showing its age. Recognizing the importance of this corridor to transportation and the economic prosperity of the State and the Valley, significant investments are being made in this vital corridor.

Goals:

The primary goals of these investments include:

- Upgrade the facility to a full freeway from its connection with Interstate 5 in Kern County, up to the State Capitol in Sacramento.
- Increase capacity by providing a minimum of 6 lanes along its length.
- Rehabilitate the pavement and bridges, extending their life for another 10 to 20+ years.
- Increase operations and improve access within the Valley communities and at major interchanges.
- Install the IT infrastructure necessary to monitor the operation of the facility and provide motorists with up-to-date travel information.
- Improve the appearance of the facility.

Benefits:

Improved safety, decreased congestion, more efficient goods movement, better pavement conditions, enhance business attraction, and more attractive appearance.

Related Activities:

Many of the communities up and down the San Joaquin Valley are taking ownership of the Route 99 corridor. Working in partnership with Caltrans, they are making a positive difference in how this facility looks and operates. One of the first, the "Association for the Beautification of Highway 99" in Fresno, was

instrumental in the current efforts to improve the route. Similar groups are forming in the communities of Bakersfield, and Modesto. On a more regional level, the Great Valley Center has formed a Route 99 advocacy group. Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 have also taken a leadership role by initiating a Route 99 Master Plan Effort, the purpose of which is to identify needed improvements and develop themes for the corridor throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Cost:

From Kern County up through San Joaquin County, over \$1 Billion in projects have been programmed and are in the process of being delivered. Each programming cycle, additional projects are added. Current funding sources include STIP (IIP & RIP), SHOPP, Minor and Major Maintenance Program, TCRP, State and Regional TEA, Local Measure, CMAQ, Local Developer Fees, and other Local dollars.

Schedule:

Many projects are currently under construction. Examples include the series of rehabilitation, safety, new interchange construction, and appearance projects ongoing in the Fresno area. Others are in the design phase. Examples of these include projects in San Joaquin, Merced, and Fresno Counties to widen the facility to 6 lanes. Other projects are in the environmental phase. Examples include projects in Madera and Merced counties to close the last remaining at-grade intersections and upgrade the facility to full freeway.

Responsible Agencies:

California Department of Transportation is the responsible agency for the majority of these projects. However, other local agencies are lead on some of the locally funded projects.



State Route 99

San Joaquin Valley Route 99
Transportation Investment

